

Charleston

DISTRICT DISPATCH

"Just Doing It"

Volume 24


Issue 2



 District Gives Itc Held a Warm Send Off

 District Wins SAD Safeth Award

 Corps Day 2001 Festivities

 10 Questions with LTC Mueller

 Scholarship Committee Awards 11 Scholarships

 Change of Command Ceremonies



A wise man once deliberated that "All good things must end." And so must my time in Charleston. So as we enter July with all the pomp and ceremony that goes with change of command ceremonies, let me leave you with a few personal thoughts.

As is traditional at this point in the Commander's tenure, it is time for me to sum up my two years and try to leave you with a small bit of wisdom. What I won't do is list accomplishments that have occurred under my time as your DE. Those accomplishments would look very similar to previous DEs that have gone before me -- an outstanding record of execution in all of our programs.

What I hope you will all remember most about me is that I was the person who cared for each of you and so the district as a whole. I tried to do the things that were not selfish or professionally gratifying but truly what was best for the district. Many times that is easier said than done. But the hard work and record of performance you have compiled make that possible. What you learn as Commander is that the folks in Charleston go about their day-to-day missions with the greatest of

Commanders Corner


rouines. And that is what makes you a great district. It just so happens that my two years at the helm were anything but routine. But still you went about your jobs with the usual professionalism and dedication.

I know we were successful because I never received a negative phone call from any customer about performance. I received many a complaint but it normally came because of that mightiest of words "No". And that is what sets us apart from other organizations -- the ability of the Corps of Engineers to say "no" when it would be expedient to give in to pressure. You have that luxury when your organization works as a team. And that is Charleston's greatest strength. No matter what the bugle call you are there for the DE and each other. So, today as I sit in my office for one of the last days in command this is what I would pass on to each of you. Continue the excellent record of performance in every-

thing you execute and remember the person next to you is more like family than a fellow employee. When the District Engineer has that kind of a team behind him, he knows that he can make decisions for all the right reasons.

And so I go the way of many a commander who was fortunate enough to call Charleston District home. I hope that each of you will fondly remember me as a leader who you were proud to call your District Engineer. Remember the good times we had and not the rest. Time has a way of healing old wounds. Give that undying loyalty you have shown me to your new Commander. He is a great soldier who I know personally to be a man of integrity and loyalty. He will fit in just fine in Charleston. Even if he doesn't fish.

May God bless and keep each of you and your families.

P.S. "Oh Man" - I almost forgot. I may be gone but not forgotten. See you all in Atlanta. 



(l to r) Mrs Held, LTC Held and Barbara Britz

The Different Aspects of Regulatory

by Sophia Gizelle George

Employees in the Charleston District are used to seeing the Regulatory folks located in the local office hard at work. Often, they are up to their ears in some kind of paper work more often than not, evaluating permit applications. The Department of the Army Regulatory Program is one of the Federal Government's oldest. Its initial function was a relatively simple one -- to protect and preserve the navigable capacity of the waters of the United States. However, with time and the ever-changing needs of the general public, the functions of the program have increased dramatically.

The Regulatory Branch is divided into two primary groups. The Permit Evaluation section handles all permit applications. Permits can be endorsed by the division for the discharge of dredged material into or for the use of the Nation's aquatic environment, including wetlands. The permit authority lies fundamentally with the Chief of Engineers, as delegated by the Secretary of the Army. Division and District Engineers are delegated to issue permits. Processing permits involves several meetings between the applicants, District staff and interested Federal, state and local agencies as well as the interested public. Permit decisions are usually made within two to three months but, in times of emergency, a decision can be made in a matter

of hours if applicable.


The principle function of the employees who work in the Environmental Assessment and Enforcement Branch of the Regulatory Division is to survey and report suspected, unauthorized activities in the waters of the United States and of violations of issued permits. If there is sufficient cause, an investigation is carried out and legal action may be taken. On average, 6000 alleged violations are processed nationwide in Corps district offices annually. Thus, Regulatory field officers are almost constantly in contact with the public and, quite often, very irate customers.

New Regulatory Field Office Opens

This very integral facet of the Regulatory Division, however, is often forgotten and consequently, not adequately recognized. The District Dispatch spoke to Don Hill, Chief of the District's Environmental Assessment and Enforcement Branch, about the state of the department and the offices opened in Columbia and more recently, in Conway. According to Hill, the job of the field officers is extensive. Included in their daily tasks is the "enforcement of Federal laws against impacting wetlands without a permit." When developers desire to build on a piece of property, field officers also map the wetlands and assess the prospective effect on the environment.

The District now has two field offices. The Columbia office was opened about 18 months ago. Two field officers, Les Parker and Brandon Stutts, work out of this office. Hill said that "The office covers most of the upstate, including Greenville, Aiken, Spartanburg and Columbia," and facilitates just about 25% of the District's field work.

In mid June, our second office was opened in Conway. There are also two officers stationed in this location, both only recently hired. Elizabeth Jackson is known for her work with the Department of Agriculture and her extensive effort with farmers. Kevin Montgomery came to the District all the way from Silver Spring, Maryland. Montgomery worked as an Oceanographer with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Don Hill indicated that because of the numerous waterbodies in and around the Conway area, a lot of work is done in the vicinity and so the office will serve a very useful purpose.

The Regulatory Division is essential to the Corp's mission and its commitment to the public. Regulators' commitment to the community they serve is governed by several principles, including professionalism, fairness, knowledge, honesty, timeliness, accountability and respect. 

Safety Line

by Mark Turner, Safety Officer

This is a story about boating safety and its importance throughout history. This story was a recent feature at www.commanderbob.com and is passed on to keep us all aware of boating safety.

Shooting Charley Noble

"In days of yore and wooden ships bobbing like tinderboxes across the briny, Charley Noble stood tall in the galley, awaiting the next taste of hot flame that would dance across his belly from the stove bolted below him.

"Who was this Charley Noble... this iron chested hulk that kept vigil in the galley while the crew busied themselves above decks getting ready for a new day or preparing to bring the day to a close?

"Charley Noble was the sailors' name for the galley chimney, which drew the heat from the galley stove and carried it safely above decks and into the passing ocean breeze. As you can imagine, sparks and hot embers coughed through the decking from Charley's gaping mouth represented an extreme hazard to those old wooden behemoths, and so it was the responsibility of the cook to keep Charley clean and free of soot and tar. Thus, every cook had a periodic routine established for firing a pistol up the pipe to loose the soot. That practice was known to all as "shooting Charley Noble."

"Charley had to be cleaned out and "refreshed" occasionally, for the lives of all on board depended on it. But so it was true for all fixtures aboard the ships. In a

manner of speaking, even the helmsman, navigator and mate gathered soot as their days on the sea wore on, learning bad habits, or taking dangerous shortcuts, or becoming lax in their duties. And somewhere along the way, someone had to shoot their Charley Nobles to get them hack on track. For just as Charley Noble's soot represented a hazard to the ship and crew, so did the soot of disregard and inefficiency on the part of the crew place the ship at risk.

"I guess we all need to shoot our own Charley Nobles from time to time. We develop bad habits (soot), we take unnecessary risks (soot), and we let our guard down and become lax (soot). We fail to make sure our crew and passengers have properly fitted PFD's (soot), we don't recharge and inspect our fire extinguishing equipment (soot), and we cut a little too close to that other boat in that narrow channel (soot). We know better, but we've just gathered a little soot. And in doing so, we become a danger to the folks on our vessel and the kids waving to us from the boat that just passed.

"It only takes a few minutes before each cruise or trip to see if soot may have built up around us. All we have to do is ask ourselves some questions about our preparedness.

"For example, how long has it been since we checked the expiration date on our visual distress signals? Expired = soot.

"Have I pulled hard on the straps of our PFD's lately to see if any of them tear the surrounding fabric or break the seams? Any soot here?

"What about our fire fighting equipment? Lots of "soot" builds up here when those inspection tags don't have notations for months or years, or the nozzles are plugged with spider webs.

"And talk about soot! If you've got an inboard gasoline engine, run your fingertips across those little fin things on the outside of the back-fire flame arrestor, beneath what probably looks to you like a car engine air cleaner. Greasy? Time to shoot Charley.

"Frayed lines? Light bulbs? Sound devices? Bilge pump? Good shape and in great working order, or sooty?

"How about the rails and deck fittings? Are they tight and safe, or sooty? Ever see someone lean on a rail and follow it into the water? It's about as funny as stubbing your bare toe on the sharp edge of a loose screw in a deck fitting. It isn't funny or pretty. Loose means soot.

"I'll bet you can dream up a whole bunch more places on your boat that can accumulate soot. When you find it, you should get rid of it. And when that's all nice and shiny, take a look at your own boating skills. If they've got some soot build up, take a refresher boating course and polish those skills to a high luster.

"Nobody ever complained when the cook shot Charley Noble, back in the days of yore and wooden ships. They knew the chances were lessened that they'd be spending the night with the sharks while their ship burned. It's that piece of mind you get when you know that somebody has gone out of their way to make you safe. Somebody like you, Captain."



Charleston District Receives SAD Civil Works District Award for Safety

March 26, 2000 was a special day for the Charleston District. The District was the recipient of the South Atlantic Division Civil Works District Award for Safety for FY 2000, an award that recognizes and honors effective Safety and Occupational Health Programs among Corps districts. The nomination packet for the award was submitted by LTC Held. He stated in his letter, "The enclosure recognizes outstanding safety program implementation, cooperative team spirit, and extensive efforts by the Charleston District to ensure awareness and compliance with safety standards."

In response to Held's recommendation letter, Major General Phillip R. Anderson, Commander of the South Atlantic Division of the Corps of Engineers and the presenter of the award, had this to say; "The emphasis on safety with your contractor dredging and hydro-power operations continues to result in excellence. . . Your emphasis on safety training has proved beneficial."

The presentation of the award did not come without infinite hard work and the continuous effort to excel. In fact, FY 2000 was a busy one for the employees of the Charleston District.

The focus on safety programs began just prior to FY 2000. In August of 1999, several accidents occurred during regular dredging operations. One contract employee lost his leg. LTC Held ordered an immediate stand-down of all marine


operations under Corps of Engineers contract. Several corrective actions consequently followed, including a four-hour dredge safety training course which was given to more than a hundred contract employees. Increased safety inspections were also conducted on all floating plant either during the initial phase of construction or when the plant was brought on site. The plan also focused on the discussion of safety issues at all command and staff meetings. As a result of the new Accident Prevention Program, Charleston District experienced only two minor lost-time injuries in dredge operations over the last 15 months.

Several other safety precautions taken by the Charleston District were highlighted and assisted in earning the award. Training sessions were held during the year on a weekly and quarterly basis including in-house first aid/CPR training classes. Risk Management was also an integral part of the agenda. An aggressive safety awareness program that involved, among other things, public information and comprehensive Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) review for each team member was completed during the course of the year.

During FY 2000, the District incurred only one government employee lost-time injury, no reportable Army Motor Vehicle Accidents and no government employee lost-time injury in marine operations.

The District implemented

numerous other programs that contributed to our being acknowledged. The award came with the dedication of several employees whose notable contributions have wrought the Charleston District the South Atlantic Division Safety Award. These people were recognized during the Corps Day Awards Ceremony. The Low-country Resident Office, led by **Kevin Widner**, was recognized by the District for its instrumental role in accident prevention. Four other employees were also recognized - **Keith Elmers**, for his outstanding support to the safety office in the preparation of the Emergency Evacuation Plan for 69A Hagood Ave; **Gene Heiselman** for exceptional effort in providing a quality Motorboat Safety Training Course and, in doing so, assuring safer marine operations. Elmers and Heiselman work in the Design Team and Survey Team, respectively. **Charlie Crosby** in Regulatory Division was awarded for his sustained guidance in providing the District Team members with the essential tools to administer quality first aid and CPR. Planning Branch's **Robin Socha** was awarded for her magnanimous effort to insure that the District team members required to work in remote locations received necessary First Aid and CPR training.

Congratulations to each and every team member for making FY 2000 an awarding winning year for safety. Keep up the great work throughout the rest of FY 2001! 

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



"I love my job," says Diresert Haynes, Charleston District's May Employee of the Month. Haynes is a clerk in the Regulatory Division. Her daily duties for the department include, but are not limited to, typing and filing for the Project Manager and greeting visitors. She is also a timekeeper. "Di", as Haynes is more popularly known throughout the District, is the third employee to receive the honor since the program was initiated in February 2001.

Haynes told The District Dispatch that her first job with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was as a student intern. Later she was hired on a temporary basis and shortly after as a permanent employee. Di said that what she likes most about working for the Corps of Engineers, particularly the Charleston District, is that "everybody gets along like a family." Haynes has been

employed by the Charleston District for thirteen years and has worked in the Regulatory Division for the last six. Haynes said she liked being employee of the month and that the award made her feel like her work was recognized. "I do not like much attention," she declared, "but it [being Employee of the Month] makes me feel real good. I never thought it would be me."



Chris Mack

"The best thing about working for the Charleston District is the people and the challenges," said Chris Mack, the June Employee of the Month. Chris is a Coastal Engineer in the Hydraulics, Hydrology and Coastal Team. He performs coastal analysis, such as erosion analysis, in support of various planning studies and projects. Chris is currently working on two major coastal studies, the Pawley's Island Storm Damage Reduc-

tion Study and the Hunting Island Ecosystem Restoration Study. Both involve the placement of sand on beaches to protect either structures or ecosystems from being damaged by shoreline erosion.

Chris came to the District in January 1991. In the latter part of 1990, he was looking for an engineering job. A friend of his brother's was employed by the Savannah District and told him all about the Corps of Engineers. Chris got in touch with some folks in the Charleston District to find out more. A few months later, when a vacancy arose from an employee's transfer to Florida, Chris applied and was hired in the H&H Section. Since coming to work at the District, Chris has completed his Masters degree in Civil Engineering (with a Coastal Concentration) as part of the Corps' Long Term Training Program. When asked his thoughts about being selected as Employee of the Month, Chris said, "I am very grateful and thankful to have been selected."


Lisa Metheney

Doing her job as the Economist and Formulator for the Charleston District, as well as effectively carrying out the functions of the Public Affairs Office, can be a demanding task. But June Employee of the Month Lisa Metheney executes it like an expert. Lisa works in the Planning Branch



and is "responsible for determining the benefits of proposed projects and for working with the PDTs to develop a full array of alternatives to solve particular problems a study is addressing, either flood control or environmental restoration. I am also involved with the Business Plan for the District as well as the Outreach Plan."

Lisa has been with the District for two years. Prior to coming to Charleston, she worked as an Economist and Formulator in the Huntington District in West Virginia. Lisa told The District Dispatch that her decision to move to Charleston was due to her desire for a change of scenery and the appeal of working on different types of projects since she had worked predominantly on flood control studies in her previous job.

"The thing that impresses me most about the Charleston District," Metheney said, "is the sense of family. Coming from a district of over 1,100 FTE's, it was a little bit of a culture shock. But everyone here has been so nice and welcoming." She added, "I am really honored to have been selected [as EOM]. There are lots of people in the District who could be chosen as Employee of the Month and it just happened to be me this month." Well done Lisa! 



Corps and Lake Marion Regional Water Agency Sign Agreement


On June 11 a signing ceremony was held wherein the Charleston District entered into an agreement with the Lake Marion Regional Water Agency (LMRWA) to provide engineering and design services for the proposed Lake Marion Regional Water System. The District was represented by LTC Mark Held, Elmer Schwingen, and Dennis McKinley. Also present were the LMRWA board members and Santee Cooper representatives Chris Hively, John Halbig, and Elizabeth Kress. Participation in the Lake Marion Regional Water System is under the authority of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999.

The Corps' planning and design-related services will include technical review of the system's design provided by state-owned utility Santee Cooper, environmental compliance work, construction contracting, and real estate planning and design. "The Corps is pleased to be in a position to support this system which affords those involved the opportunity to improve the quality of life in this area," said project manager Dennis McKinley. DDPM Elmer Schwingen added, "The Lake Marion Regional Water System has the potential to be a \$150 million CG type project. While most of the \$150 million will go for construction and A/E contract support, a significant amount will support in-house

efforts as the District provides QA oversight and administration of the contract efforts."

The agency is proposing to construct a 31 million gallons per day (mgd) system to serve the municipalities of Elloree, Holly Hill, Manning, St. George, and Summerton. The project would include constructing a water treatment plant on Lake Marion. Future phases of the project may expand the system to include up to seven additional municipalities in the six-county region with a transmission capability of 31 mgd via 54 miles of water mains.

"The Lake Marion Regional Water System gives us the ability to provide infrastructure needed to support economic development," said Johnnie Wright Sr., Chairman of the LMRWA. "The system will enhance public health, provide better fire-fighting ability and help ease the burden of Federal and state monitoring requirements increasingly placed on water system operators."

LMRWA members would own the system's capacity and maintain local control of their existing water distribution systems, including back-up wells. The proposed system would be owned and operated by Santee Cooper, which owns and operates the 7-year-old, 30 mgd Santee Cooper Regional Water System on Lake Moultrie. 

Scholarship Committee Wings It

Charlie Crosby Declared Wing Wizard

On April 16, the Scholarship Committee began a new event that is destined to rival the annual Chili Cook-off. The event is still a cook-off -- a way for the members of the District to show off their culinary expertise. The challenge this time was chicken wings. In all, seven different varieties of wings were available for judging. Judges Angie Williams, Mitch Hall and Dean Herndon had their work cut out for them. After sampling all of the wings, some flavors more than once, the group declared Charlie Crosby the winner. Coming in a close second was one of Major Diehl's entries. A small gas grill, donated by Mark Purcell, was the prize that accompanied the title of "Wing Wizard." Once the judging was complete, members of the District filled their plates with wings, chips, cole slaw and ice cream and debated amongst themselves as to which flavor was better. (Final results of the informal decision were not released to this reporter). The Scholarship Committee would like to thank everyone who participated, either as chef or judge (official or unofficial). The event made a profit of \$41 for the Scholarship Fund.



Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for Pedestrian Pier

by Sophia Gizelle George

Charleston District Officially Opened Pedestrian Pier at St. Stephen

Keith Ellmers of TS-D made an early request that the ribbon be cut towards its end so that it could be preserved for another occasion. LTC. Mark S. Held delegated the responsibility of cutting the ribbon to the District's newest lieutenant, Jamie Alexander. The Commander then invited members from the South Carolina Public Service Authority (PSA) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to share the honor of the first cast and with this one uncomplicated action the Pedestrian Pier was formally opened.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on June 15, 2001 at the wharf's location at the St. Stephen hydropower facility. The project, which was undertaken by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in April 2001, was embarked on in an attempt to alleviate the hazardous conditions that pedestrians encounter when fishing at the St. Stephen Powerhouse. David Hubbard, Chief of the Construction Operations Branch and Operation Project Manager for the Cooper River Rediversion Project noted: "It [the pier] is going to help us out tremendously from a safety perspective as people were fishing off the rocks."

LTC Mark S. Held, Commander of the Corps' Charleston District stated that though the project was a relatively small one, it was one which was dear to him, and he was happy he could have seen it through to its finish before he took his leave from the lowcountry office.

The ceremony was a short one and began promptly at 11:00am. Held gave the small crowd a brief synopsis of the project and the mission of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and emphasized that all projects were conducted through relentless teamwork.


The people present at the ceremony ranged from the Corps' Lowcountry Office employees to St. Stephen-based staff, representatives from both the Department of Natural Resources and the Public Service Authority, as well as Santee Cooper.

The pier was bought prefabricated at a price of \$71,000 and cost \$100,000 to be assembled and installed. It is approximately 150 feet long, 10 feet wide and weighs just about 37 tons.

The bridge was installed along the south Intake Retaining Wall, extending from a concrete abutment placed in the south embankment to a single bent composed of a reinforced concrete cap on steel H-piles. Access to the bridge is via the patrol road on the south

bank from the Powerhouse parking area.

The St. Stephen Powerhouse facility is one facet of a project endorsed by Congress in 1968 as an assistance to navigation in the Charleston Harbor. The project focused on redirecting roughly 70 percent of the freshwater from the Cooper River watershed back into the Santee River. The anticipated result of this rediversion was primarily a decrease in shoaling and, consequently, in the dredging that it necessitated. Other features of the project include a fish lift, which was modified by the Corps in 2000, a 12-mile rediversion canal and a fish hatchery. The powerhouse came online in 1985.

The project encompasses an area of 2,493 acres of land, more than 2,000 of which is operated for fish and wildlife. The Cooper River Rediversion project is a collective effort of the Charleston District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Santee Cooper and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. 



LTC Held addresses crowd at ribbon cutting Ceremony

1st of June Begins Hurricane Season

The Saga Begins

Chantal... Gabrielle... Lorenzo... Pablo... The names seem harmless, even charming and exotic, but underneath this veneer of innocence lies some of this year's most deadly enemies. Residents of South Carolina know them well - the strong, uncontrollable winds, the lash of unforgiving torrents of rainfall, the seemingly incessant flooding, the threat of tornadoes and storm surges, and even more real, though intangible, the fear - all brought about by hurricanes. The Hurricane Season in the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico is considered the period from June 1 to November 30 each year.

The origin of the name "Hurricane" can be traced back to the Caribbean God of Evil, Hurican. A storm is classified as a hurricane when its sustained winds reach or exceed 74 miles per hour. The entire hurricane is quite extensive and may extend over tens of thousands of square miles. Near the center of the hurricane, wind gusts may exceed 200 mph. Contrary to what most believe, however, it is not the feared winds which are responsible for the most deaths, but rather drowning. Rainfall flooding is the greatest threat.

2001 Hurricane Forecast

On average, approximately ten tropical storms develop over the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico. Some of these storms never make it to land, but about 60% of the total become hurricanes. Hur-

ricanes have historically struck the United States about every four years, often injuring and killing people and leaving millions of dollars worth of damage. In December 2000, Dr William Gray, Professor of Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University predicted 9 named storms. The updated April 2001 forecast increased the total by one. Experts expect ten named storms, with six of them likely to become hurricanes, two of them particularly intense. The probability of a hurricane making landfall on the United States coastline for the season is 65%. Over the past century, this figure has remained almost constant.

Charleston District's Ice Team

During emergencies, the Army Corps of Engineers is frequently called upon to provide relief services such as the provision of ice, water, emergency power, temporary roofing, temporary

housing, technical assistance and debris removal. Each district within the South Atlantic Division is given a mission in which they become the Subject Matter Experts. Charleston District is designated as the Ice Team. Marlene Judy, Natural Disaster Manager for the District noted, "This has helped us respond more efficiently [in emergencies] since we have trained team members who are ready to respond." The Ice Team is actually two teams, each with five members. Each team is comprised of an Action Officer, Mission Manager, and Mission, Contract and Logistics Specialists.

Recently, from April 30 to May 4, 2001, the Ice Team attended a national training exercise in New Orleans. Marlene Judy told The District Dispatch that the training was a field exercise driven by a Master Scenario Events List and prepared the national team for this fiscal year. The exercise simulated the landfall of a Category 3 hurricane at New Orleans. The scenario, should it ever occur, would pose some unique problems. The City of New Orleans essentially sits in a bowl between the Mississippi River and Lake Ponchartrain. It's true, in some parts of the city you have to look up to see the river. Should a Category 3 hurricane hit the city, it is expected that since Lake Ponchartrain is a relatively shallow lake, a large portion of the water in it would be pushed over into the city. For the purposes of the exercise, it was estimated that it would take

Hurricane Names 2001

Allison	Lorenzo
Barry	Michelle
Chantal	Noel
Dean	Olga
Erin	Pablo
Felix	Rebekah
Gabrielle	Sebastien
Humberto	Tanya
Iris	Van
Jerry	Wendy
Karen	

30 days for the city to pump out all of the water. Some people believe it would take longer than that. Charleston's Ice Team worked with the L.A. District's Power Team, the Little Rock District's Water Team, and the LRD Logistics PRT during the exercise. Each team had to go about ordering and delivering their commodities (ice, water, power) according to the needs of the exercise. "I was glad we got to participate in a real exercise. Too often in the Corps we are given a training course that is theory but no application. This was a real how-to, hands-on experience," stated one of the Ice Team participants. The experience was about as hands-on and as real as could be expected. "The only thing missing was the ice," joked team member Larry Hanford.

The District's Ice Team has a history of great service that has often gone outside of the United States. After Hurricane Lenny (1999) and Hurricane Hugo (1989), the Team furnished ice to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. In 1998, 18 million pounds of ice was also delivered to Puerto Rico. That same year, the Ice Team extended its service to Florida and distributed ice during the Florida Fires.

Team A: Dennis McKinley, Jim Whiteman, Doug Marcy, Bob Driscoll, Fred South **Team B:** Charlie Harbin, Lisa Metheney, Larry Hanford, Bob Driscoll, Saulo Gaspi

Be Prepared:


Before...During...And After

It is essential that everyone along coastal areas understand hurricanes and be adequately equipped with the knowledge to take efficient action when necessary.

If there is the probability that an area could experience hurricane conditions within 36 hours, a hurricane watch is issued. Immediate action should be taken then, and a plan enforced in the event of the reality of a hurricane. A hurricane warning is even more serious. It indicates that a hurricane is expected within 24 hours. At that point all safety actions should be completed and a family should decide on a safe place to weather the actual storm.

Other secure measures can be taken before a hurricane. Find out if you live in an evacuation area. This is especially important if you live near the coastline. Keep a supply of batteries, non-perishable food and water, a first aid kit, a battery operated radio, and extra blankets on hand during the hurricane season. Always remain tuned to the weather and be informed about the weather

activity in the tropics. It is important to know the safe routes inland and also the location of all the closest shelters in the event that evacuation is necessary. It is crucial to have a plan before the hurricane hits

During the hurricane, remain indoors and stay tuned to the radio for frequent updates. Being informed is critical! After the hurricane, continue to monitor radio and, if possible, television notices. Do not drink water from the faucet until local officials advise that it is safe from contamination and be on the look out for snakes, insects and other animals. 

For more information on the topic of hurricanes, check out these web sites:

Charleston District US Army Corps of Engineers:

<http://intranet.sac.usace.army.mil>

National Hurricane Center:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov>

National Weather Service/Charleston:

<http://wichc.csc.noaa.gov>

SC Emergency Preparedness Division:

<http://www.state.sc.us/epd>

Storm Prediction Center:

<http://www.nss/uoknov.edul-spc>



Charleston District Celebrates Unity Day


By Barbara Gathers EEO

The District celebrated "Unity Day" on Tuesday, April 17, 2001 with the Honorable Joseph P. Riley, Mayor of Charleston, as guest speaker. The theme for the occasion was "Celebrating Our Diversity." The program was sponsored by the Special Emphasis Program (SEP), a component of the District's EEO Office.

Unity Day, is a celebration of our diverse backgrounds and cultures. It is also a celebration of the District's efforts to build and maintain a diverse, highly motivated, and productive workforce. The District's efforts to build its workforce, not only include strategies to attract, recruit, and hire a diverse group of individuals, but also include strategies to develop, and retain a diverse group of employees.

Mayor Riley spoke of the importance of diversity and his personal efforts to embrace equality. When it comes to diversity in city government, the Mayor has led by example. His vision, leadership, and impressive list of accomplishments have brought him and the City of Charleston national and international acclaim.

Following the Mayor's speech, the members of the District were invited to attend a luncheon. A variety of foods were served, everything from Filipino dishes such as pancit to Southern Fried Chicken. A wide array of desserts were also served, including key lime pie and chocolate chip cookies.

Keep an eye out for the SEP's next activity, a celebration of Women's Equality Day in August. 



Rising To The Challenge

by Ron Nesbit, Project Manager

The Department of Defense (DoD) is committed to correcting environmental damage caused by its activities. The Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) is the vehicle to accomplish this. The cleanup of Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) is a part of this program. FUDS are those properties that DoD once owned or used, but no longer controls. These properties can range from privately owned farms to National Parks. They also include residential areas, schools, colleges, and industrial areas. The FUDS program includes former Army, Navy, Air Force or other defense agency properties. The Charleston District is involved with managing the FUDS program for sites within South Carolina.

The FUDS Program has three major phases: inventory, study, and removal/restoration.

Inventory Phase: The inventory phase includes searches of real estate records to verify previous DoD ownership or usage. As part of the inventory process, a preliminary assessment is made to determine the site eligibility and the need for cleanup. We also evaluate the severity of environmental problems. If no contamination is found, no further action (NOFA) will be taken. However, if the property owners or regulators later find that contamination exists and was caused by DoD, they can contact us for reevaluation of that site.

Study Phase: We undertake studies to determine the extent of environmental damage and how best to cleanup the contamination.

Removal/Remediation Phase: This phase consists of the engineering design and the necessary action to cleanup the site.

Charleston District provides the program management for the FUDS program for the State of South Carolina. Work is accomplished on a priority basis - the worst sites are cleaned first. Priority of funds goes to sites with the greatest potential danger to the human population. Normally these are areas where people live, work, or go to school.

A typical project can take anywhere from two years to many years (5 to 10). Project duration depends on how large the site is, what work is involved, and what level of funding is available.

No two projects are ever quite the same. One thing that does remain constant is the partnership between the Corps of Engineers, the environmental regulators, and the property owners.

Public values and concerns are an important element of the cleanup process. We work closely with the current site owner and adjacent residents prior to and while working on a site. Through personal contacts, small group meetings, workshops, and public meetings, we gather important information from the public that is critical for decision making. Through information meetings, brochures and media tours we keep the public constantly apprised of the work. These contacts also allow us to immediately address concerns about the work.

There are two different types of projects that can be undertaken

under FUDS. Each type focuses on a different type of waste, and the method of cleanup for each type differs greatly.

Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste: Projects in this category include removal of underground and aboveground storage tanks, drums, and electrical transformers.

Ordnance and Explosive Waste: Identification and removal of abandoned ordnance and explosive waste such as bombs, bullets and rockets.

Currently, Charleston District is involved in two major ordnance projects in the State of South Carolina. The first is the former training facility for all phases of combat that encompassed approximately 19,000 acres named "Camp Croft" located in Spartanburg.

The Corps has had to develop innovative technology to improve project efficiency. For example, the use of geophysical surveys and a portable blast shelter at the former Camp Croft's Wedgewood subdivision made the project safer, quicker and less expensive. We estimate the savings achieved by using these technologies at more than \$1 million.

A second site in the former Camp Croft area where the District is managing a removal project is at the OU6 site, more commonly referred to as the Dr. Lowery property. Here the Corps, in conjunction with the Corps' Huntsville Center and the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), is using technology to save time and cost and, potentially lives. The Corps is conducting its first totally remote controlled removal opera-



tion at this site. The AFRL's remote controlled equipment includes a bulldozer, an excavator (backhoe), an All Season MD-90 tractor, and a sifter/shaker. The Corps needed to be able to safely and cost effectively remove the top 6 to 12 inches of soil in this five acre area to allow for the removal of ordnance which is expected to be below those depths. The high density of ordnance-related items meant manual excavation and identification of each item would no longer be the best method of removal because of the increased risk to worker safety and the extensive length of time and increased costs this method would incur. The robotic equipment is operated out of a Mobile Command System (a specially equipped van) by Air Force personnel. "We have three operators that are trained to operate each of these vehicles. Each vehicle has a set of 'joysticks' that control the vehicles various functions, to include gear changes for the dozer, and the operator watches the vehicle's movements on a monitor," said Walt Waltz, the

Air Force lead for the robotic operation at the former Camp Croft.

"The robotic equipment provides an extra safety measure by allowing workers to remain away from the potentially dangerous items as they are uncovered. The addition of the equipment to the site is also good news for taxpayers," said Karl Blankinship of the Huntsville Center. "We can remove large amounts of topsoil, which holds most of the ordnance and fragments, and gain quick access to those items that may be buried deeper in the ground. We anticipate a savings of over \$250,000 and a time reduction from 90 weeks to 10 weeks," he added. The project is expected to be completed by the end of the fiscal year.


The other major ordnance removal project for the District is the Conway Bombing and Gunnery Range in Conway, consisting of approximately 55,800 acres used by the Army Air Corps and Air Force during World War II as a training base. From June 1940 to December 1941, various observation squadrons of the Army Air Corps occupied the Myrtle Beach Municipal Airport. On 8 November 1943 the airport was renamed Myrtle Beach Army Air Field (AAF), which used the bombing and gunnery range in the Conway area (Conway BGR). Research shows that Range III was used for practice, demolition, dive, incendiary and skip bombing, and rocket firing. Heavy use of Conway BGR continued until early 1946 when Myrtle Beach AAF converted from wartime to peacetime training and use of Conway BGR diminished greatly.

The site is located in Horry

County, South Carolina, in the vicinity of Myrtle Beach. Most of the former Conway BGR is owned by private entities and is used mainly for harvesting, golf courses, agricultural, and residential purposes. The largest individual owners of land are International Paper and the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department. The project is expected to take five to ten years to complete. Currently the Corps of Engineers is reviewing the Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis. Once the review is complete, the Corps will determine the best method for cleanup and removal of the ordnance.

House Members Urge Appropriators To Increase UXO Funding:

Several House lawmakers, are lobbying two House military appropriations subcommittees, pressing for boosts in the fiscal year 2002 Defense Department budget to address unexploded ordnance (UXO) at former military sites. Specifically, the lawmakers are suggesting a \$65 million increase in cleanup funding for UXO at FUDS, a \$20 million hike in cleanup research and development funding to find better UXO remediation technologies.

The lawmakers say "increased funding for UXO remediation and research is vital" and is one of the best ways to help DOD and communities "meet the challenges they face in ensuring that these lands are accorded the best possible cleanup." People are living, working, studying, and recreating on these sites and they need to be made safe." 

CORPS DAY 2001



It was a day of laughter and merriment as Corps employees took to the beach in their annual celebration of Corps Day. The Charleston District held its picnic for its employees on Friday June 8, 2001. Again this year, the festivities were held at Folly Beach. Though the morning brought rain, the weather quickly cleared up to reveal bright, sunny skies --just perfect for a day at the beach. The District's staff, happy to be out of the office for a day showed up early for the party attired in beach gear. Many of the employees brought their family and friends along, and it was with this large group of cheerful people that Corps Day 2001 was off to its official start.

Many enjoyed the relative calmness of the ocean; some the tranquility of the environment; others merely the priv-

ilege of being away from the confines of a building and the opportunity to intermingle with co-workers and their families. There was much to eat including burgers, hotdogs, pies, cookies and potato chips, and, after a leisurely, interactive and fulfilling lunch, the award ceremony commenced.

Commander of the District, LTC. Mark S. Held thanked the employees for their continuous hard work and dedication and acknowledged that his two years in the District had been one of growth, development and constructive amendments. He assured the group present that the subsequent Commander was a competent one and that along with

the Second-in-Command, Major David Diehl, the District would be in "good hands."


Held, though informally dressed, placed his Army beret on his head as he took on the role of awarding the deserving employees of the District in his official capacity as Commander of the Charleston District. The first awards given were unique and selective. The award for Supervisor/Team Leader of the Year went to **Diane Carter**, Team Member of the Year (Engineering and Scientific) was awarded to **James Truelove** and Team Member of the Year (Administrative, Technical Support, Clerical) was awarded to **Barbara Britz**. The Commander's Award for Extraordinary Achievement was justifiably presented to **Keith Ellmers**.

Employees' loyalty and dedication to the Corps were honored as Mark Phillips was awarded for his 30 years of service with the agency and ten



other employees were honored for 25 years of service - Jackie Graham, Jim Truelove, Don Pilkington, Kevin Widner, Millard Dowd, Keith Ellmers, Matt Laws, Joyce Cartwright, Fred Veal, and Cynthia Biller. Margie Brown, Max Hayes, John Schaffer, Tony Lijewski and Tommy Socha were recognized for their twenty years of service, while Dennis McKinley, Vernard Cleveland and Beth Barber were awarded for their 15 years of dedication to the agency. Ten years length of service awards were presented to Yolanda Brown, Jake Duncan and Chris Mack and five years awards to Linda Shealy and Melvyn Acevedo.

The Chairman of the awards committee is Frank Jordan. Other members of the committee include Major David Diehl, Pat Baremore, Bob Driscoll, Matt Laws, Elmer Schwingen and Bob Riggs.

It was a day of celebration for all -- not merely those who were recognized for their hard work and allegiance, 



Change of Command

by Sophia George



As the Charleston District bid farewell to LTC Mark Held as its District Engineer and Commander, the team welcomed its 79th leader, LTC Peter Mueller. The Change of Command ceremony was held on July 6, 2001. The purpose of the ceremony is to emphasize the continuity of leadership within the organization and the transfer of command from one District Engineer to the other. This transfer of command is signified by the passing of the command flag from the outgoing commander to the incoming commander.

Friends, family, military counterparts and colleagues gathered in the Courtyard located between Hollings Hall and The Citadel's Alumni Building for this special District tradition. The ceremony, which began promptly at 11:00 am, was officiated by the District's Deputy Commander, Major


David Diehl. Highlights of the ceremony included the Presentation of Colors, an impressive rendition of the Star Spangled Banner by Patricia Miller, the invocation by Frank Russell Jr., the official Change of Command from LTC Held to LTC Mueller, the Retiring of Colors, the singing of the Army Song and the playing of "Amazing Grace" by bagpiper, Cadet 2LT Paul Robinson of The Citadel.

Division Engineer Major General Phillip Anderson in his address to the gathering, gave a brief synopsis of LTC Held's stay in Charleston and listed several of his accomplishments in the District. "You have been a great Commander," he told Held, "and you have made marked improvements in every area in the District." In his last speech to his former employees, LTC Held joked, "The good weather is a

sign that Charleston is in for better times."

New District Engineer LTC Peter Mueller thanked the outgoing commander for his warm welcome to the lowcountry. Mueller comes to the District from Washington D.C. where he served in the office of the Under Secretary of the Army. He was commissioned a second Lieutenant in 1983. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Utah and his Master of Science degree in the same field from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. LTC Mueller is a registered Professional Engineer in Virginia. The new Commander brings much experience to the table. In addition to his most recent position at the Pentagon, he has served in a number of different positions including Assistant Division Engineer and

Battalion Executive Officer, 326th Engineer Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Kentucky and as a Project Engineer in the Corps' Wilmington District in North Carolina.

Mueller promised his new team that he would do his best to serve them and the state of South Carolina. He told the assembly that employees of the Corps were a representation of the Army to the general public and as such employees' actions left a lasting impression. He advised employees to "always do your best" in all undertakings. LTC Mueller is joined in Charleston by his wife Suzanne and their three children, Katelyn (7), Matthew (5) and Alexander (2). 



20 Questions with Outgoing Commander LTC Mark Held



On June 1 *The Charleston District Dispatch* sat down with LTC Held to talk to him about his two years as Commander of the District. What follows is a paraphrasing of the questions and answers that were part of the interview.

CDD: Tell me about your new assignment. Where is it, what will you be doing?

Held: I will be the Deputy Division Engineer for South Atlantic Division. Historically, a seasoned Colonel fills this position, so it's a big honor to have been selected. I am really looking forward to the assignment. Primarily, my duties will be primarily running the staff at SAD. I'll be coordinating Emergency Management, Public Affairs, the Board of Directors, etc.

CDD: Your tenure in the District started with a bang, to say the least. What were your thoughts then?

Held: What a way to run a railroad. My idea of efficiency and command and control were much different. And I was shocked at the facilities that you all were in. The building was "atrocious." And

it was more shocking to me that you guys had grown accustomed to it. I knew I needed to get the District into a new facility. I knew a new facility would make things more efficient and improve morale.

CDD: What were the main things you wanted to accomplish when you first took command? Did you accomplish them?

Held: Initially, I wanted to focus on external customers and mission execution, bringing more work into the District. What I had to do first though, was focus internally, solve fiscal responsibility issues, morale issues. The District was not unified in anything we did. I spent the first year reorganizing and setting a command climate and command and control structures.

What did I accomplish? I believe we are fiscally in better shape. We've educated SAD and other districts to use us and not just call an A/E out of habit. We are a part of the Regional Business Center -- a well represented player in the RMB. For so long we simply chose not to participate. These are all accomplishments that the District can build on and move forward.

CDD: Charleston was your third assignment within the Corps of Engineers. What did you learn from this tour that you didn't learn from other Corps assignments?

Held: (Laughing) "It's always better to be the boss." What you learn as an ops officer or a PM are the day-to-day operational things. As a District Commander, you have to know who's on your molecule, or be situationally aware. In SAC on any day there are 50 - 60 external people or organizations that can

affect us and what we do: Congress, environmental groups, private citizens, etc.

CDD: What do you consider to be your greatest achievement during your two years in the Charleston District?

Held: We've accomplished a lot over the last two years. Execution has been 100% or greater for both years; we've had good Emergency Management response; we've survived two moves and three headquarters buildings. But overall I think my greatest accomplishment is that Charleston District is a better place to work today than when I first walked through the door. I can't put my finger on any one thing; it's just an overall feeling. I think people feel like coming to work everyday. Oh, and one last thing. (Smiles) When I took command, it had been ten years since a Chief had visited Charleston. I got two to visit in two years.

CDD: What is the biggest piece of unfinished business that you will leave for the next commander?

Held: I think the Division and the District have a roadmap with the Regional Business Center, but if I had one more year, I would concentrate on developing the mechanisms for bringing work into the District so that other districts want to keep giving you work. The District needs to get out of its comfort zone. We need to start focusing on 2011 instead of the next quarter, the next 10 years instead of the next 10 days.

CDD: Coming into a new job most people want to have an idea of what to expect. What advice do you have for the new com-



the wonder of its modern air base construction, and the like. What the Corps is most famous for is its ability to say 'No' when 'No' should be said."

CDD: *There is heavy emphasis at the Division level to "fix Charleston." Some of the proposed "solutions" were regional rent, workload sharing, etc. What do you feel is the "right answer" for Charleston?*

Held: First of all, Charleston isn't broken. We could continue to do things the way we always have for several years. However, with the regionalization of SAD, we need to adapt. We need to be like the rest of today's Corps and not the Corps of 10 years ago. We need to be working with the rest of the districts so we can better serve the people of South Carolina and the Nation.

CDD: *What is the hardest decision you had to make while Commander of the District?*

Held: I think it was my decision that I was going to operate Charleston like other District Commanders operate their districts and not worry about management indicators. I was not willing to look good on paper while ignoring people's needs of things like training and awards. I took some heat about the indicators, but

I didn't want to have a second-class district.

CDD: *If there is one decision you would and could change, what would it be?*

Held: If I were coming in now, I'd over hire 20 additional income-generating positions with little in-depth analysis. One thing I've learned is that if you have 5 people out of 150 gone, it makes a big difference.

CDD: *We've finally moved into our space here next to The Citadel. Where do you see the relationship between the District and The Citadel going over the next few years?*

Held: The new Commander has a great opportunity to build a great relationship with The Citadel. In the past couple of years almost everything has been focused on getting moved here and the numbers and logistics of everything. The new Commander can focus on things such as educational exchanges, for both our employees and their

students, at both the undergraduate and graduate level, using our different strengths to help each other.

CDD: *We recently received our copy of the Refreshed Corps Vision. What impact do you see it having on the District and the Corps as a whole?*

Held: The Vision is a great document, especially for new folks. It clearly says what the Corps is all about and where we are headed. Its greatest impact is that all employees understand it. It wasn't a totally new vision, but it took what the Corps has been working on for the past five years and focused it, making it better.

CDD: *What do you see as the biggest challenges for the District, or the Corps, over the next 4 years?*

Held: Internal to the Corps, I think the biggest challenge will be the transition from single districts to the Regional Business Center operation. Externally, I think the Corps is going to see challenges from things largely outside our control. There will be greater pressure on budgets, more intensive review of our work by the public, and more things like the Thomas Amendment to deal with.

CDD: *Our district was impacted by the recent SWANCC decision. What do you think will be the result of the decision over the next four years?*

Held: The only impact I see to the District is that it will bring some relief in workload. The State has the potential to fill in the void that the Federal government can no longer do. Development could really take advantage of the situation while there is nobody "guarding the

hen house.” I’m not saying the decision is right or wrong, but South Carolina will lose wetlands because of the ruling.

CDD: *Pretend you are no longer a “green suiter” and are just a regular civilian. What job in the district would you most like to do?*

Held: Be the Skipper of The BLAIR.

CDD: *You’ve always joked that not a week goes by that the District doesn’t have a meal or cake or special function. Of all the functions you’ve attended, what was your favorite?*

Held: I’d have to say it was last year’s Corps Day. I enjoyed it very much. It was the end of a painful and unusual year. Everyone seemed to really enjoy it; it was a fun atmosphere and everyone seemed to have a good time.

CDD: *Everyone in the District knows of your love for fishing. Describe the best day fishing you had while commander here. Where is your favorite fishing spot?*

Held: This is an easy question. My favorite fishing spot is a 39-acre strip pit in Dorchester County. I bought a membership in the fishing club there. The best day I had fishing was at that spot. It was my first time fishing since being back in the States. I was recovering from a back injury and the trip was 8 hours of pure heaven. It was sunny and clear and the day “completely rejuvenated me.” I think between all of us that went we must have caught 60 bass. It really renewed my love of fishing. I think the second best day of fishing was at the same spot on March 1st this year when I caught the largest bass I’ve ever caught, 8 pounds.

CDD: *What is your favorite memory of your days as commander here?*


Held: The day I was the reviewing officer at for The Citadel Parade. It was a great honor to do what is normally reserved for Senators and Congressmen and Generals. In fact, MG Grinalds told me that he couldn’t remember the last time a LTC had been a reviewing officer. My college roommate and his wife were in attendance, which made it special as well. It was definitely one of the highlights of my career so far.

CDD: *What will you miss the most about Charleston?*

Held: The Charleston District is an extension of my family. I will miss that feeling of family I have every day as I come to work. There is a tremendous amount of respect and openness in the District. Commanding a district of this size I was able to be involved in every facet of the District, and that is something I will miss.

CDD: *Finally, what is your parting message to the employees of the District?*

Held: I have experienced a great deal of loyalty from my supervisors and everyone in the District. This saw us through tough times and great accomplishments. You serve no District Engineer, but you serve the Nation through the Army Corps of Engineers; remember that’s what is important. You’ll serve the next guy the same way you served me, by doing the great things you do.

LTC Held had a few parting thoughts he wanted to pass on. First, “Life is good in Charleston and you don’t know how good until you leave.” Second, “Change is inevitable so you need to embrace it.” And lastly, “If you don’t know where you’re going, any road will take you there.” 



Hail and Farewell

The Charleston District has added several new staff members to its team in the last few months. The Regulatory Division has gained four additional personnel (two of whom will be situated in the recently opened Conway Field Office), while the Resource Management and Technical Service Division has grown by one. Let's meet and greet the new team members.



Lorraine Cosentino --- Lorraine comes to the District all the way from New Jersey, where she worked with the Project Manager Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below (PM FBCB2). She began her job as a regulatory clerk for the Regulatory Division on May 14. Lorraine says this is her first time to Charleston. She moved to the low-country because her husband, a member of the military, was transferred.

Gerald McFall --- Charleston native Gerald McFall returned home to join the District's team on June 18th. He works as a Civil Engineering Technician in the lowcountry resident office. Gerald was formerly an employee of the Navy's sub-base in Kings Bay, Georgia.



Vanessa Stoney--- The District's newest Accountant is Vanessa Stoney, a native Charlestonian and a graduate of South Carolina State University. This is not Vanessa's first job with a military affiliated institution. Before joining the Charleston team, she worked for the Military Traffic Management Command.

Elizabeth Jackson --- The Conway Field Office was recently opened and Elizabeth was one of the two officers stationed there. Elizabeth is a graduate of Clemson and holds a BS in Agronomy. Her previous job was with the Natural Resources Conservation

Services. Her first day with the District was June 18th.

Kevin Montgomery --- Kevin is the newest Biologist in the District. He will also be stationed in the Conway Office. He is a graduate of the University of Maryland and formerly worked for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).




Jamie Alexander --- This is Jamie Alexander's first time to Charleston, but the South Carolina city was chosen first of her five options. Jamie is a 2001 graduate of the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York. She graduated with a BS in Civil Engineering. Jamie works in the Regulatory Division.

As the District opened its doors to new employees, it bid goodbye to three. We wish them the very best as they begin another chapter of their lives.

Harry Bird---After being promoted to a Captain in the National Guard in Mullins, South Carolina, Harry Bird left the District in May. Harry worked in the Technical Service Division, Survey Team. The District congratulates the new Captain.



Joyce Cartwright --- June 29 marked the end Joyce Cartwright's tenure as Contracting Specialist in the District. Joyce will be enjoying her new position in Kauai, Hawaii, with the Department of the Navy. Best of luck Joyce.

Mark Purcell --- Mark Purcell welcomed the month of June with a new title and a new job. Mark joined the US Fish and Wildlife Service as Refuge Manager at the Cape Romain Wildlife Refuge. We wish him all the best. 

A Little Pomp and Circumstance Please

June is traditionally a time for graduations. Below is a list of Charleston District family graduates. Congratulations to them and best wishes on their future endeavors!

Aarin Bond of EM graduated from the College of Charleston with a BS degree in International Business. She has been accepted to the Master's Program where she will pursue a degree in Accounting.

Troy Davis of TS graduated Cum Laude from South Carolina State University with a BS in Civil Engineering Technology. Troy is a co-op student with the District and will be a permanent employee of the District.

Kelly Bieganousky, daughter of Wayne Bieganousky of TS-DT, graduated from First Baptist Church High School. She will be attending USC in the fall and will major in Nursing.

Jennifer Blake, daughter of Lincoln Blake of PM, received her BS in Nursing from MUSC. She has been accepted to the MUSC Master's Program.

Rebecca Nelson, daughter of Mark Nelson of TS, graduated with honors from Wando High School. Rebecca will attend her father's alma mater, Clemson University.

Amy Phillips, daughter of Mark Phillips of TS-OL graduated from Stratford High School. She has been accepted to USC, where she will major in Fashion Merchandising.

Jessica Veal, daughter of Fred Veal of RD, received her high school diploma from James Island High School. She will be attending Trident Technical College in the fall and will major in Secondary Education.

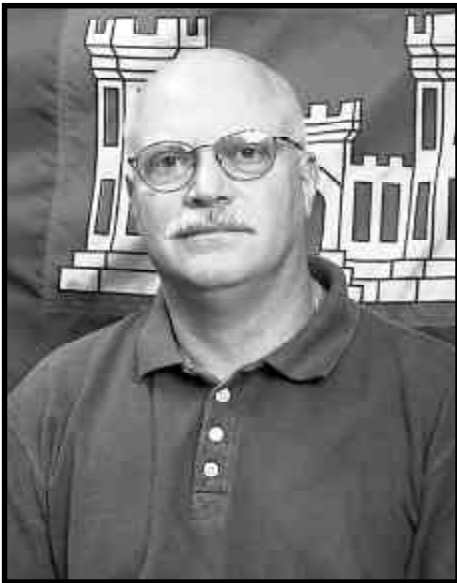
Rashawn Dozier, younger brother of Nia Dozier of CT, participated in Westview Elementary's graduation exercises. He will be attending Westview Middle School in the fall.

My grandparents used to refer to moving ahead in school as being "promoted" to the next grade. Although the people below are not graduating from a high school or college, they are "commencing" a new stage in their careers. The folks below all received promotions since our last publication. Congratulations to all of you!

Rose Smalls	GS-9
Yvette Jenkins	GS-7
Joe Jones	GS-13
Bob Driscoll	GS-13
Robin Crosby	GS-7
Ace Acevedo	GS-9
Yolanda Brown	GS-9

E3 Energize, Empower, and Educate

In our ongoing quest to familiarize the District's employees with each other, The Charleston District Dispatch spoke to several employees about their duties at work and their lives outside of the office. This issue features personnel from the Emergency Operations, Planning Branch, Hydraulics, Hydrology and Coastal Team, St. Stephen Powerhouse, and the Office of Counsel.



Bruce Seltzer

Chief of the Emergency Management Division, Bruce Seltzer has been an employee of the US Army Corps of Engineers for such a long time, he can't remember how he first came to join the team. His first job was in 1976 when he worked with the Mediterranean Division in Italy. Many days have passed since his time in Italy and Bruce sums up his current job in one sentence; "Provide natural and national support for disasters." His department pro-

vides relief to save lives and lessen human suffering and property damage during emergency situations.

Bruce has been married to his wife Roxy for 28 years. They have one daughter, Chelsea, who is 18, and two dogs. Bruce's hobbies are extensive and include traveling, hunting and barbecuing. He stated that what he liked most about working with the Corps was simply, "the people."

If you ever visit the Caribbean, don't worry too much about bringing Bruce back an expensive souvenir. He would be content with simply a Medalla - a beer brewed only on the island of Puerto Rico and his favorite drink.



John B. Crawford

The Cooper River Rediversion Project (CRRP) may mean many things to many people, but for John Crawford it marked the beginning of his long-standing career with the District. He has been

employed here for twenty-two years - since the beginning of the CRRP in June 1979.

John is the St. Stephen Power Plant Superintendent. He "maintain[s] and upgrade[s] the hydroplant and fish lift seasonally so they are operable at the touch of a button." John makes this sound simple, but it takes the hard work of many people to make it a reality. John also spends part of his day interacting with members of the public who come into the visitor center needing information or directions. He and his wife Anne have three children, JoAnne, Allison and Jay. They are also proud grandparents of two granddaughters and expect another in November.

John says what he appreciates most about being employed by the Corps is that "it is a rewarding and challenging job within three miles of my house, in my hometown." The next time you are in the area, stop in and let John tell you all about the CRRP. And while you are there, thank him for the great public relations job they do with the public.

Sara Brown

"I own an American Quarter-horse," Sara Brown told The District Dispatch, "and I would spend everyday horseback riding if there were enough time in the day." This is just one of the many hobbies that Sara enjoys. She also likes

to travel and read and enjoys photography. Sara has one dog named Darcy, who is her horse riding companion.

When not engaged in one of her hobbies, Sara is the Team Leader of Hydraulics, Hydrology and Coastal Team, as well as the Floodplain Program Manager. She explains, "My team and I compute and analyze projects relating to water. Primarily, we support planning studies for flood control projects. I predict flood elevations for various rainfall events based on channel dimensions and floodplain storage."

Brown has worked for the District for sixteen years but says that the job had not been an easy one to come by. "While in Graduate School . . . I told my advisor of my interest in working for the Corps... I was working for the state's Land Resources Commission, when my advisor called me and asked if I was still interested in a job with the Corps...I was hired within two months."



Jonathan Jellema

Jon is the Assistant District Counsel for the District and has been employed with the District for nine and a half years. He summarizes his job in simple terms - "to give legal advice and assistant to all elements of the District." Jellema says he initially took the job with the Corps because of his interest in environmental law. He added, "This job became available, was offered to me and I took it."

Jon is a family-oriented man. He and his wife of five years, Gail, have two daughters - Hannah Marie, 3 and Julia Grace, 1 1/2. When talking about his wife, Jon says, "She is a wonderful wife and mother." The legal counsel enjoys several sports which he plays in his leisure, including basketball, racquetball and softball. He also swims and collects old soda pop bottles. Jon says what he appreciates most about working for the District is "the people." And watch out for Jon at the local ice cream parlors. He says his favorite food is ice cream with hot fudge.


Jimmy Hadden

"The best things about working for the Corps," says Jimmy Hadden, "is the job security, the fact that we are serving the public, the variety of work available and the people that I work with." Jimmy is a biologist in the Planning Division.. His job responsibilities are broad and include assuring that all of the District's projects are in



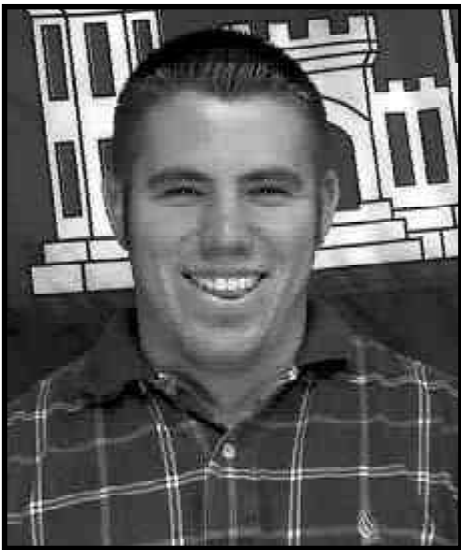
compliance with environmental laws and regulations. Hadden's first job with the Corps was twenty eight years ago when he worked as an Engineering Aide in Savanna, Georgia. Three years later, in 1976, he joined the Charleston District.

Jimmy enjoys several general outdoor activities. He is known in the Planning Branch for his love of hunting, fishing and boating. Jimmy has two daughters - Heather, 23 and Cameron, 14 and a two-year old grand daughter, Natalie. His wife of 17 years is also a member of the District family. Tina is the Chief of the Permits Branch in the Regulatory Division. Jimmy first met Tina within the network of the Corps.

Inspite of his notable hunting and fishing skills, Jimmy's favorite meal is a not a complicated one. Infact, just a good, old, plain cheeseburger would do. 

Summer Hires and Returning Co-ops

Summer for some is a promise of sandy beaches and sun-filled afternoons. For the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, it is a period when the District's doors are opened to student-aids. This year the District welcomed five new students to the Charleston family. The students hail from several colleges within the state and have a average GPA of 3.35.



Mike Johnson is a junior Civil Engineering major from Summerville, South Carolina. Mike is a student of the University of South Carolina in Columbia. He says he applied for the job with the Corps of Engineers for the "experience" he expected to attain from it. Mike is also located in the Technical Services Division.

Bill Martin is the fourth student-aid working in Technical Services Division. Bill is a senior Civil Engineering major from Spartanburg, South Carolina and is a student at Clemson. Bill said he



thought working for the District was "an excellent opportunity" and would make for a "positive future." Bill graduates in May 2002.

Renee Duncan is a native of the twin islands of Trinidad and Tobago. She is a Mechanical Engineering Technology major/Environmental Science minor at South Carolina State University. Renee chose the District because "it presented an opportunity to get practical training in my area of study." Renee works in the Regulatory Division.



Sophia "Gizelle" George is a Business Administration major/ Psychology minor at South Carolina State University. Originally from the small Caribbean island of Dominica, Sophia says her reason for choosing to work with the District was because: "The Corps came very highly recommended. Students who had worked here before said it was a great place to work." Sophia graduates in December 2002 and is currently placed in the Planning Branch.



Lavar Miller is the most recently hired summer intern in the Charleston District. Lavar, a Senior Mechanical Engineering Technology major at South Carolina State University and a native Charlestonian, said he chose to work with the US Army Corps of Engineers "Because it gave me the opportunity to do a summer internship at home." Lavar graduates in May 2002.

The start of summer also brought the return of the District's two Student Career Experience Program (Co-op) students. Students in this program work in areas related to



their academic fields of study and, once successfully completing the program, may be non-competitively converted to full time permanent employees of the District.

Tammye Davis is a senior Civil Engineering Technology major from Orangeburg, South Carolina. This is her second summer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Tammye says of the District; "Being here has given me a feel for what I will be doing in real life." She added, "I enjoyed being here last year so when I got the opportunity to come back, I accepted it." Tammye graduates from South Carolina State University in December 2001. She works in the Technical Services Division.

Troy Davis is a recent graduate of South Carolina State University. He is a Civil Engineering Technology major from Orangeburg, South Carolina. He said his reason for returning to the District was a simple one. "I enjoyed the work ethic and also the work atmosphere." Troy works in the Technical Services Division. The District is working with Troy in an attempt to find a permanent placement for him by the end of the summer.



Scholarship Committee Sponsors BBQ and Baseball Outing

Baseball... American summer tradition. And what better to go with an evening of baseball than a picnic dinner.

On May 11 the Scholarship Committee, with the help of Master BBQ Chef Bruce Seltzer, sponsored a BBQ picnic and trip to see the Charleston Riverdogs take on the Asheville Tourists. For only \$10 people could get a ticket to the game and have all they could eat BBQ, cole slaw, baked beans, chips and an ice cream sundae. Over 60 tickets were sold and many of the District's personnel brought their children to the event.

Bruce Seltzer's BBQ was a huge hit, and despite many hungry people making multiple trips through the line, there was still enough BBQ left for folks to have some to take home. After everyone's stomachs were full, we all walked over to the stadium to claim our seats for the game. The game was an eventful one, with the Riverdogs winning 5-2. Adding a perfect finale to the night, a fireworks display was held immediately after the game. The 20-minute display was beautiful!

The general consensus was that a good time was had by all. The Scholarship Committee would like to thank everyone who participated, and would especially like to thank Bruce Seltzer for once again serving the best BBQ in South Carolina. The event raised just over \$275 for the Scholarship Fund.

Scholarship Committee Awards 11 Scholarships

Friday, June 8 was the culmination of a successful year of fundraising for the District's Scholarship Committee. The committee, through various events held throughout the year, raised just over \$2,700 enabling them to award scholarships to 11 children of District employees. Some of the events sponsored by the committee included the Annual Chili Cook-off, the Inaugural Wing Cook-off, T-shirt sales, several theme lunches, a bake sale, and the BBQ and Baseball outing.


John Kassebaum presented the Scholarships on behalf of the committee during the awards portion of Corps Day. Each recipient received a check to be used toward their educational expenses for the next academic school year. The recipients were: *Rebecca G. Ford*, daughter of Gail Ford of TS; *Jill M. Gaspi* and *Nicole R. Gaspi*, daughters of Saulo Gaspi of TS; *Rebecca Nelson*, daughter of Mark Nelson of TS, *April L. Turner*, daughter of Mark Turner of SO; *Jessica R. Veal*, daughter of Fred Veal of RD; **Allison T. Chamberlain**, daughter of David Chamberlain of RD; **Kelly Bieganousky** and **Karen Bieganousky**, daughters of Wayne Bieganousky of TS; **Amy Phillips**, daughter of Mark Phillips of TS, and **Caroline Herndon**, daughter of Dean Herndon of RD.

The people who serve on the committee enjoy the work they do. "I enjoy serving on the committee. I remember what it was like to scrape together scholarship and grant money to pay for school. Every bit helps," said committee

member Lisa Metheney. Doug Marcy added a different perspective saying, "I like working on the Committee because it provides an alternative to eating lunch at your desk or getting takeout and allows for fun and fellowship. And all the while raising money for a good cause."

The committee is always searching for new ideas and new committee members. "We have had lots of assistance from folks who aren't on the committee, like Jim Whiteman and Mary Sue Doran. We welcome anyone's participation, whether it's for the whole year or for only one event," stated one of the committee members.


The Scholarship Committee would like to thank everyone in the District for their participation in all of the events during the past year. As Chairman Kassebaum stated, "We've had great success in the past year thanks to the generosity of the Charleston District employees and the hard work of the Scholarship Committee. I look forward to another great year and would like for anyone interested in participating on the Committee to contact me for information." The committee will take a few weeks off to regroup and plan for the next year. But keep your eyes open for their next event to kick off the 2001-02 year.

Committee members for the 2001-02 year are: Chairman John Kassebaum, Aarin Bond, Saulo Gaspi, Tina Hadden, Ted Hauser, Paul Hinchcliff, Doug Marcy, Gary McAlister, Lisa Metheney, Mark Nelson, and Debbie Ward. 

The Celebration of Independence

As spring bids the nation farewell and summer unwittingly takes its place in the circle of life, patriotic Americans hold their breath in expectation of the most anticipated holiday of the summer - probably of the year. America's celebration of Independence on the 4th of July is so illustrious it is world-renowned.

Independence Day celebrates the birthday of the United States of America, as it is known today. The Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776. At that time, the U.S. consisted of thirteen colonies under the rule of Britain. Within the colonies, there had been growing unrest. Citizens were unhappy about the steep taxes being paid to Britain. This was commonly known as "Taxation without Representation" as the colonies were not represented in the British parliament. The colonies tried on several occasions to work through their differences with England. Every attempt failed and by June 1776, a committee was composed to form the formal Declaration of Independence. The team was headed by Thomas Jefferson and included John Adams, Benjamin Franklin and many others.

The declaration did not come without its fair share of pandemonium, however, and its signing was not completed until August. The first Independence Day celebration was held on July 4, 1777--one year after the initial signing of the Declaration. Independence Day is enjoyed by all Americans with traditional parades, picnics and fireworks 

LTC HELD SAYS GOODBYE


Officer... Gentleman... True Leader... Brave... Trustworthy... Leader of Leaders... Fisherman Deluxe... These were just a few of the adjectives used to describe LTC Mark Held as the staff of the Charleston District took to the stage on June 28 to say their thank yous and goodbyes. As employees entered the Citadel Alumni Building it was to a musical PowerPoint presentation depicting memorable snapshots of Held and the Charleston team over the past two years.

The Farewell Luncheon / Town Hall Meeting was a clear portrayal of the respect and gratitude employees harbored for the District Engineer who was described by one employee as a "Commander who prides himself on

taking care of those he commands." Held was bestowed with gifts from individual employees and several departments as well as the entire district. Highlights of the presentations included "The Swingettes," led by Trisha Miller, serenading the Colonel with their modified version of Diana Ross' "Some Day We'll Be Together" and Major David Diehl giving a convincing and humorous performance of "A Typical Day in the Executive Office." Diehl described Held as a great leader who was immensely "successful in taking care of his soldiers and his employees."

There were numerous trips down memory lane as Held and the District's employees recalled 2 years of unforgettable and trea-

sured events, a remembrance of all that Held has been to the Charleston team.

Held admitted that his last two years with the Charleston District had been "by far the two best and most satisfying years of my entire life." He gave the District employees this advice: "Don't let undue pressure let you change what you know is right. Stay on course and you'll be fine." Held said he was happy to have had the opportunity to spend the day with the staff and that he would not have traded that time for anything. He finished, "I love all of you like family and I will always remember today and my two years in Charleston when I was yours. Thank you and God bless you Charleston." 



10 Questions with Charleston District's 79th Commander LTC Peter Mueller

On June 4 *The Charleston District Dispatch* sat down with LTC Mueller and asked a few questions to get some insight into the thoughts of the District's new Commander. What follows is a paraphrasing of the questions and answers that were part of the interview.

CDD: *You are currently working at the Pentagon. Briefly describe your job and your duties.*

Mueller: I am currently a Military Assistant to the Under Secretary of the Army. I am an action officer and advisor for a number of areas. I advise on all Corps of Engineers related issues and issues dealing with Congress, installations and the environment, Public Affairs, and investigations from the Army IG or Army Audit Agency.

CDD: *Tell us a little bit about yourself. Family, pets, college degrees, etc.*

Mueller: When describing myself I would say I am a father, a husband and a soldier. I have three children- Katelyn, 7, Matthew, 5 and Alexander, 2. I have been married to my wife Suzanne for 11 years. She is from New Bedford, Massachusetts. We met when we were stationed together in Georgia. She's a licensed RN and former Army nurse, but is currently a stay-at-home mom. I have a BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Utah and an MS in Civil Engineering from MIT. I am also a registered PE in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

CDD: *What made you decide to make a career of the military?*

Mueller: I was an "Army Brat," my dad retired as a Colonel, so I guess

I just grew into the Army. After I finished college, I did some job interviews but didn't find what I really wanted to do so I enlisted. After Basic Training, I attended Officer Candidate School and was branched to the Corps of Engineers and have been in the Army ever since.

CDD: *Our outgoing commander is an avid fisherman. What are your hobbies/interests?*

Mueller: I value my family time. Many of my assignments have been on the coast and we really enjoy the beach, so you can find me there, building sand castles with the family. I also enjoy woodworking, traveling, and snow skiing. I am the photo album person in the family too. And PT. You have to do PT.

CDD: *What are your thoughts as you come to the Corps' smallest District?*

Mueller: What is the saying? "Great things come in small packages." Just because the District is small in numbers doesn't mean it's small in execution. I think small districts give you the ability to build great teams. I graduated from a small high school, with 57 people or so in the graduating class, and we had championship wrestling and track teams. The same is true here. We can have some great teams. Secondly, a small size requires that you be most efficient. This makes you stand out. I believe the District is very competitive in SAD and throughout the Corps.

CDD: *What do you hope to accomplish during your two years here?*

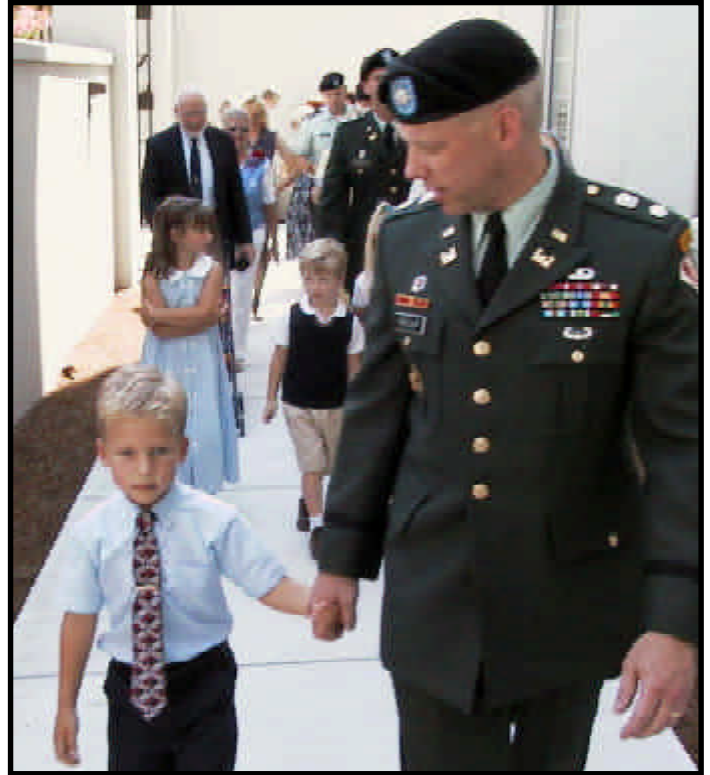
Mueller: My Command Philosophy has three parts. A - Accomplish Our

Mission, B - Care for Our People, and C - Do What's Right, Do Our Best. I want to build on the past successes of the District. We have a great reputation and I want to build on that. I want to leave the District better than when I arrived. That's not to say there is anything wrong now, but there is always room for improvement and continued success. Once the transition team gets together in August and I have had some time to get educated about the District, then I'll talk about our specific goals.

CDD: *When a new boss arrives, everyone wonders the same thing - What are his pet peeves or hot buttons?*

Mueller: My Guiding Principles, hot buttons, or things I really believe in, are: Training and Execution, Discipline, Teamwork - and inherent in teamwork are good internal communications, Integrity and Leadership. And with Leadership comes accountability, being willing to be responsible for decisions. I think these are the basics. Now as far as pet peeves go, there are at least five. Promptness - I like people to be on time for meetings, etc. Taking Notes - I tend to take a lot of notes and I like to see others taking notes of important information. Do Things Right. BLUF - Bottom Line Up Front. Give me the bottom line and then we can talk about the details. And lastly, everyone needs to have a Sense of Humor. Everyone needs to be able to laugh at least once a day. If you're not having fun something's not right.

CDD: *You're moving from a mostly military environment to a mostly civilian envi-*



ronment. What impact, if any, will that have on your leadership style?

Mueller: (Laughing) Well, I won't have people falling out for PT at 6 am. Seriously though, I would encourage people to participate in the wellness program the District has. In talking about leadership style, I think your values stay pretty constant. My values, the Army values, are what I use to lead. With me what you see is what you get. Regardless of where I am commanding, I'll always be Pete Mueller, so I don't think my leadership style will change that much.

CDD: Are there any initial messages that you want to send to the people of the District?

Mueller: I, and my whole family, am excited to be coming to Charleston. I am looking forward to serving the Charleston District, the State of South Carolina and the Army during my tour here. The Vision has it right. People, Process, Communication, this is how the Corps needs to operate. There is going to be a steep learning curve for me as I take command. I will be asking a lot of questions. I want people

to know it's not about lack of trust or anything like that. The questions are so I can get educated. I am confident that the District team will help get me on board quickly.

CDD: One final, and very important, question - Do you like grits?

Mueller: Actually I do, but I don't know where I acquired the taste for them. I like them with butter, but if I keep eating them like I did when I was here house-hunting, I'll need to do a lot more PT. 